

Appointments

Catawba County Planning Board	30	02/04/08
Hickory Higher Education Center Board of Trustees	30	02/04/08

Awards

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	30	02/04/08
Certificate of Commendation to E-News Team	30	02/04/08

Catawba Valley Community College

EDA Grant for Simulated Hospital	31	02/04/08
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Closed Session

Pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11(6) to consider the performance of an employee	32	02/04/08
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Deeds

Deed of easement for Heritage Greenway	31	02/04/08
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Easement

Deed of easement of Heritage Greenway	31	02/04/08
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Register of Deeds

Removal of Marriage Binders for Preservation	31	02/04/08
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Resolutions

Delinquent 2007 Real Estate Property Tax – advertising	30	02/04/08
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Sheriff

Declaring sidearm and badge surplus – Deputy Robert Alan Pope	30	02/04/08
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Tax

Report and resolution on delinquent 2007 Real Estate Property Tax	30	02/04/08
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Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Tuesday, February 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Glenn E. Barger.

Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail was absent.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Barger offered the invocation.

4. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and recognized Betty Coulter from the Newton/Conover School Board, Reginald Hamilton from the Hickory City School Board, CVCC President Garrett Hinshaw, Sheriff David Huffman and Donna Spencer, Register of Deeds.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Presentations:
 - a. Chair Barnes asked the County Attorney to introduce Taylor Adams, a Newton-Conover High School senior who is completing an internship with the Legal Staff in the County Manager's Office. Ms. Adams has been accepted at Appalachian State University and intends to enter law school upon completion of her undergraduate studies.
 - b. The Board honored Sheriff's Deputy Alan Pope, who retired, effective February 1, 2008, after 27 years of service with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office. Under North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2, the Board, upon the motion of Commissioner Beatty and carried unanimously, declared Deputy Pope's service side arm and badge surplus, and presented those items to him. Both Sheriff Huffman and Jerry Boggs, Telecommunications Administrator, complimented Deputy Pope on his service the the County.
 - c. The Board formally presented the County's Budget Director Judy Ikerd and Budget Analyst Katrina Hawkins with a 2007 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Budget Analyst Jennifer Mace was unable to attend to join in the receipt of this award. The award is presented to local governments that prepare and publish a budget document which is both informative and understandable. Catawba County has now won this award for nineteen consecutive years.
 - d. The Board issued a Certificate of Commendation recognizing the Catawba County E-News Team, which developed Catawba County E-News, an e-mailed newsletter with information about Catawba County Government that won a 2007 Silver Circle Award from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association and an Award of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers. The E-News Team includes Marcia Hardy, IT Training Coordinator; Lindsey Cearlock, Applications Specialist; Valerie Jones, Information Technology Administrator; Dave Hardin, Public Information Officer; and Terry Bledsoe, Chief Information Officer.
8. Appointments:

Chair Barnes presented a recommendation of Vice-Chair Lynn Lail to reappoint Ray Von Caldwell for a tenth term, Clifford Isaac for a second term, Al King for a second term and Steve Von Drehle for a fourth term to the Catawba County Planning Board. Upon her own recommendation, Chair Katherine W. Barnes recommended her reappointed to the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center Board of Trustees. These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.
9. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following two items on the consent agenda:

 - a. The Board was requested to receive a report from Catawba County Tax Collector Jackie Spencer on the total amount of unpaid real property taxes for 2007. Ms. Spencer reported that, as of January 22, 2008, delinquent real property taxes in Catawba County totaled \$4,776,460, which represents 7.82% of the 2007 real property levy. It was requested that the Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to advertise delinquent tax liens, as prescribed under North Carolina Statutes. The resolution read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners for Catawba County, in compliance with NCGS 105-369(a), order the Tax Collector to advertise all unpaid tax liens, as prescribed in NCGS 105-369.

This the _____ day of February, 2008

b. The Board was requested to approve an agreement with the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and with Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) to secure a \$1 million grant for CVCC, and authorize the County Manager to execute the necessary documents. CVCC was recently awarded the grant to help create a simulated hospital on the fifth floor of the Cuyler A. Dunbar Building. As a condition of the grant, the EDA required certain assurances related to the building, to protect its \$1 million investment. When the Dunbar Building was built in 2005, its construction was funded by installment purchase financing by the County, using Certificates of Participation, and funding from the State of North Carolina. In order for the County to secure the loan, the Dunbar Building was used as collateral for the financial institution. In the event of a foreclosure, the building and its contents would be sold by a trustee and the proceeds would be distributed to the financing entity to satisfy the outstanding loan. Any excess proceeds would be given back to the County. On October 1, 2007, the Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the EDA that, in the event the property was sold and excess proceeds remained after payment to the financing entity to satisfy the loan, the County would compensate the EDA for its federal share under the award, from these proceeds. The EDA is now also requiring the County and CVCC to sign a "Covenant of Purpose, Use and Ownership" agreement which obligates the County and CVCC to reimburse the EDA in the event the project financed by the grant, the simulated hospital, is used for a different purpose than specified in the grant.

Dr. Hinshaw came forward to update the Board on this project. He said it was exciting to see a dream become a reality. He indicated the college would be getting the final specs on the project from the architects the following week and would seek State approval on those plans. The expected opening date of the simulated hospital was still on track for the fall of 2009. This simulated hospital will be one of a kind and will allow more students to enter the field of nursing. Dr. Hinshaw said he would continue to give the Board updates on the project.

Chair Barnes asked if any of the Commissioners wished to have an item broken out of the consent agenda and none were requested. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports:

a. Register of Deeds:

Donna Hicks Spencer, Register of Deeds, presented a request for the Board to authorize the removal of marriage certificates from the Register of Deeds Office for preservation work. The Register of Deeds has begun a four-year plan of preservation of volumes 1 through 41 of the County's marriage certificates. The preservation process for Volumes 1 through 4 has been completed and those volumes have been returned to the Register of Deeds. Funds for this project have already been appropriated in the 2007-2008 County budget and would fund the preservation of Volumes 5 through 13 of the Marriage Binders. The Board was also requested to authorize the removal of the remaining Marriage Binders (Volumes 14 through 41) for preservation, as funds are allocated in future budgets for this four-year preservation plan. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the removal of Volumes 5 through 13 of the Marriage Binders from the Register of Deeds office for preservation and to further authorize the removal of the remaining Marriage Binders (Volumes 14 through 41) for preservation as funds are allocated in future budgets. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Planning:

Jacky Eubanks, Planning Director, requested the Board authorize the County Manager to sign a Deed of Easement for County property that would be involved in a proposed greenway system being developed by the City of Newton. The greenway will run through the City of Newton, connecting areas in the northern part of the city with a section of the Catawba County Government Center Complex, and then with the Westside Jaycees Park and Southside Park. The easement will consist of a 25 foot greenway with a 10 foot paved trail and will include the right to construct facilities for pedestrian, bicycle and emergency vehicle traffic within the easement. The greenway will benefit citizens of Newton as a whole and County employees specifically, providing additional walking areas which will assist the County with a wellness program. The Board previously expressed its support of

the greenway project in a June 2, 2004 letter to Newton Mayor Robert Mullinax, which specifically stated the County would assist the city in easement acquisition for the project. Commissioner Hunsucker questioned Mr. Eubanks of any liability issues regarding this easement and both Mr. Eubanks and County Attorney Debra Bechtel assured the Board that the County was protected as much as possible from these type issues in the language of the easement. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to authorize to approve the easement and authorize the County Manager to sign the Deed of Easement.

11. Other items of Business: Commissioner Beatty thanked the Utilities and Engineering Department for their play this week and noted the children enjoyed it and it was a great tool to educate the children on recycling. Commissioner Beatty said she had received a lot of good comments from the teachers who were present. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy then added that the front page of the Hickory Daily Record had a good story regarding the EcoComplex.
12. Attorneys' Report. None.
13. Manager's Report.
At the request of the County Manager, the Board went into closed session, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(6) to consider the performance of an employee. No action was anticipated when the Board returned to open session. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to move into closed session at 10:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into closed session and Vice-Chair Lail joined the meeting at this time.
14. The Board returned to open session at 12:50 a.m. No further action was taken. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk